

**Remarks of Chairman Henry J. Hyde  
Before the Full Committee  
“The U.S. – India Global Partnership”**

**Thursday, May 11, 2006**

Allow me to make some brief remarks before I turn to our distinguished panel of witnesses.

Last March, at the request of Secretary Rice, Mr. Lantos and I introduced H.R. 4974, which would amend the Atomic Energy Act to allow for nuclear trade with India. At that time, both Mr. Lantos and I said to Secretary Rice that we were not committing to support the legislation in its current form, although we might in fact do so at a later date.

Recently, Mr. Berman circulated a Dear Colleague letter regarding legislation he plans to introduce on this subject. This letter was forwarded to our witnesses so that they could familiarize themselves with it and be prepared to comment upon it. There may be others who plan to offer bills or amendments of their own.

This is the fifth in a series of hearings the Committee has held on the U.S.-India Global Partnership. We have heard extensive testimony on the merits of the agreement as a whole from a wide array of Administration officials and experts. As we move toward consideration of the relevant legislation, I believe it is now appropriate to examine in greater detail the Administration’s bill as well as several of the proposals that have been put forward by members of this Committee and others.

Let me stress that neither I nor the Committee as a whole necessarily endorse any of these proposals nor even subscribe to the possibility that any are needed at all. But if we are to intelligently discuss this subject, we must fully understand the range of options before us, some of which are highly technical and thus demand close attention.

We have gone to considerable lengths to ensure that we will hear a wide-ranging and, I believe, balanced set of perspectives. I hope that all members will approach this subject with the seriousness and open mind that it deserves.

I now turn to my colleague, Tom Lantos, the Ranking Democratic Member, for any comments he may wish to make.